

Waste Action Alert

*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate Needless Additional Performance Bonuses

February 1, 2012

Program or Item Targeted: Performance bonuses to states awarded by the Department of Agriculture.

Cost of Program or Item: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) awards \$48 million in these bonuses annually.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is a federal aid program which provides financial assistance to low income individuals and families for purchasing food. The program began in 1939, and as of October 2011 there were over 46 million Americans who were receiving food stamps. Currently, the U.S.D.A. awards \$48 million in bonuses annually to states for payment accuracy, correct decision making, timely considerations and all around improved performances in administering and issuing the Food Stamp Program.

Why This Program Is Wasteful: Taxpayers expect their tax dollars will be spent so bonuses are rewarded for extra effort, not meeting minimum expectations. Additionally, these “bonuses” may provide a perverse incentive to enroll recipients and rush through applications. These bonuses would add up to nearly half a billion dollars over the next ten years. The USDA and Congress should be required to make sure these standards are met without having to spend additional taxpayer dollars as a “carrot” for good behavior, particularly at such high prices for these incentives. This bill was selected by the American people as part of Majority Leader Cantor’s YouCut program.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: Rep. Scott DesJarlais has introduced H.R. 3652, the “Stopping Needless Additional Performance Bonuses Act of 2011” or SNAP Act. This bill seeks to eliminate the performance bonus program within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. If you would like to become a cosponsor or have additional questions, please contact Dayne Cutrell at Dayne.Cutrell@mail.house.gov.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*“The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn’t be paying for.”*

